

Meteor-Heraut

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Quick Read

In General

Reminder!

Daylight Savings Time
spring forward Mar. 26.

Hans Christian Andersen's 200th birthday party

The SHAPE Danish community hosts a 200th birthday celebration for writer Hans Christian Andersen, April 18, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the SHAPE Officer's Club. A Hans Christian Andersen Cultural Centre exhibit is on display in the SHAPE Main Building entrance hall, April 10-16, then again at the birthday celebration. Tickets are Euros 10, and are available at the SHAPE GB Superstore entrance area.

Alpha Kappa Alpha scholarship deadline

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has announced its 2005 scholarship program for graduating seniors from DoDDs in Europe. Applications must be postmarked by April 8. Scholarship applications and contact information are available at each high school guidance office.

Belgium

Town Hall meeting

Brig. Gen. John Adams will host the Brussels Community Town Hall meeting April 6, at 6 p.m. in the NSA Three-Star Lounge. The open forum meeting is the community's link to announcements, feedback and upcoming events. To have issues placed on meeting agenda, send an email to community.coordinator@usdelmc.army.mil or contact the assistant community coordinator at 02 707-9488.

Lost and Found

Lost items are not always lost forever. Several items have been turned into the 80th Area Support Group's Provost Marshal's office to be reunited with owners. The following is a list of found property: Credit cards, debit cards, beaded necklace, gold ring, Volvo, Nissan and other key chains. To reclaim found property, go to the Provost Marshal's office, Bldg. 20134 on Chièvres Air Base.

Netherlands and Germany

Dutch honors Mikus

Nicholas M. Mikus, former general manager, Combat Equipment Group, Europe, received the Dutch Minister of Defense "Medal of Merit in Silver," Mar 1, for his diplomatic efforts to promote good American-Dutch relations.



Mikus

Joint pre-deployment processing insures everyone ready to answer nation's calls

By J.D. Hardesty

The first joint services pre-deployment processing in the Benelux footprint was held March 7-11, at Chièvres, Air Base, to help all servicemembers meet their service's deployment readiness requirements.

The 80th Area Support Group provides service and support to servicemembers in NATO and SHAPE.

"While servicemembers and commanders are responsible for unit readiness, it is the garrison's responsibility to insure the community is ready -- and that includes a servicemembers family," said Joe Troxell, director of Human Support Services.

"We want to make sure that service members and their families have confidence that they will be taken care of while a spouse is downrange in harm's way," Troxell said. "Servicemembers don't need to be distracted when they are focusing on such a critical life or death mission. He needs to stay focused on the job at hand."

Troxell said the PDP integrated information from the whole community as families ready for deployments.



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Medina, U.S. Army NATO, gets his eyes checked by Sgt. Lindsay Bjelde, SHAPE Healthcare Facility during the first Joint Service pre-deployment processing in the Benelux footprint Mar. 11 at Chièvres Air Base.

community have lessons learned from the first Joint Service PDP.

"First of all, it is important for unit readiness to verify servicemembers are medically deployable," Troxell said. "Secondly, we need to ensure

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79th Med. Det. (V.S.) Afghanistan bound

By J.D. Hardesty

Eight Soldiers from the 79th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services), will team with five Soldiers from the 64th Med. Det. (V.S.) in Germany, and head to Afghanistan to provide veterinary services to the theater's military working dogs, and commissaries and dining facility food inspection facilities.

"We are deploying for the dogs," said Maj. Cyle Richard, commander of the 79th. "These are not your run-of-the-mill household

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PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Sgt. Randy Billings (left) and Sgt. Antion Parker load tactical and veterinary equipment in preparation for the 79th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) deployment to Afghanistan. Eight Soldiers from the 79th will team with five Soldiers of the 64th Med. Det. (VS) to provide services to military working dogs and commissary and dining facility food inspection.

Family workforce supports 'people of the world'

By J.D. Hardesty

Europe's top Army general recently visited Benelux Family Readiness Group members thanking the volunteers and answering their concerns during his visit to SHAPE.

"You have a complex mission supporting the people of the world in a multi-national environment," Gen. B.B. Bell, commander and chief, U.S. Army-Europe told FRG members from the 80th Area Support Group's footprint.

Bell, whose four-star beret encompasses his multi-national, multi-service responsibility as the commanding general for U.S. Army NATO's Allied Command Land Forces, explained there is a "range of threats" in the Global War on Terrorism, and "we are all in this together."

"As a Family Readiness Group up here (in the Benelux), put your arms around those families of

deployed members," he said.

Unlike major unit deployments, service members from tenant units have individually augmented downrange forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo and other missions around the world.

Bell explained the importance of an FRG to make a morale call to deployed Soldiers spouses.

"A volunteer Army is characterized by families," Bell told the 50-plus members of the FRGs gathered for the feedback session. "Our Soldiers are here, defending the individual right's of people as many go into harm's way. They join for the quality of life and a place to raise their children. In the end, it is all about people."

According to Russell Hall, director of Installation Management Agency-Europe, 40 percent of the IMA-E force is made up family members working on

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PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Gen. B.B. Bell
Commander-in-Chief
U.S. Army, Europe

IMA-E supply excellence award goes to 80th ASG

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- The Supply Support Activity, 80th Area Support Group received U.S. Army, Europe honors for its work in 2004 at the Army Awards ceremony for Maintenance and Supply Excellence at the Village Pavilion, Mar. 15.

The Army Supply Excellence Program recognizes supply excellence at the unit and organizational level.

The Army Award for Maintenance Excellence recognizes outstanding unit level accomplishments and initiatives at MACOM, HQDA and DoD levels.

"Logisticians are the heroes on the battlefield," said Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, commanding general, 3rd Corps Support Command. "The teamwork that we have with military, civilian and local national I think is the best we have ever seen in the Army and all the places I've ever served."

Halstead went on to mention much of what the maintenance and supply Soldiers accomplish reflect the Army values of selfless service. "Perhaps we don't

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Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski
80th ASG Commander

It seems like springtime may be near in the Benelux. I'm sure that you, like me, enjoy the longer days and sunshine. Soon the famous flowers of The Netherlands will be in

Nowowiejski Notes

bloom, and we will be able to move outside again for barbecues and outdoor activities that don't demand a snow suit. With the change of seasons in mind, let me share these themes with you.

The first is a repeat subject: energy conservation. From my wanderings around the Area Support Group, we are very vulnerable to wasted tax dollars due to lax energy conservation. I think that waste of money will only get worse as the heating season ends. Too many times there are offices and work places at night and on weekends that have the heat going full blast and lights on, just as if the work space was occupied. I expect that many homes are the same. As the days get warmer, and you leave for activities, please pay attention to turning off your utilities. If you think about it, we are spending more dollars than before to keep our installations well lit in the post-9-11 environment, as well as being disadvantaged by the dollar-to-euro conversion rate. Every dollar you save by turning down the thermostat as it gets warmer, and keeping lights off as the days get longer, will be funds that we can use for more permanent community improvements as the summer and fiscal year end.

Second, a few reminders on deployment readiness and support. For the last several months we have been trying to improve our awareness of the several members of our communities that are deploying to the global war on terror from the NATO headquarters and from our tenant units. Most often, these are individual rather than unit deploy-

ments, and occur quietly without the fanfare of Stars and Stripes deployment ceremony coverage. Service members quietly get on a plane from within our communities and fly away, leaving behind a family that needs all the services that we can offer to family members of deployed service persons. I call these "invisible deployments." Two points about this: you need to be ready to deploy, because the call may come, and your deployment readiness is a real issue. Second, we all need to be sensitive and supportive in increasing ways to those around us who are deploying or the family members of the deployed. There are tangible ways to get better in this support. The 80th ASG is focused on this, and I ask you to be too.

Finally, I would like to discuss initiative, innovation, and efficiency. Many of the programs we operate in the garrison support structure for you depend on increasing efficiencies of using our funds. Most often, improved efficiency of using garrison dollars comes from the consumer who simply has a good idea about how to do something better. I ask that if you see a way we can accomplish a task more efficiently and save base operations dollars, you help us with those good ideas through programs like the Armed Forces Action Plan, Interactive Customer Service, comment card, or simply speaking to your local activity manager. When we run our garrisons more efficiently, the dollars come back to you in other lasting projects. Thank you for your active support to community activities and for your good ideas.

Bell: 'Great Soldiers' staying in boots

Bell Sends #15-05
March 7, 2005

Total Army Retention Program Fiscal Year 2005

1. Your commitment to our Soldiers and their families directly contributed to the great success of our FY 04 retention program and will help ensure that we will again meet our goals for FY 05. In FY 04 we achieved well over 100 percent of our retention mission for the active component (AC). This accomplishment is remarkable and tells me that we have large numbers of great patriots in our ranks who are willing to step up and commit to the long-term defense of our Constitution. We are blessed to have such great Soldiers staying with our Army. Unfortunately, we were not successful in achieving our Reserve Component (RC) objectives. Our RCs have come to the battlefield to fight in the GWOT. They too are terrific patriots and selflessly give of themselves to their Nation. We need to do our part to ensure their ranks remain full. In FY 05, we need to maintain our AC momentum, and we need to achieve our RC objectives as well. We can do better by focusing on the following:

- Instill pride in your Soldiers from the first day they arrive in your unit by continually letting them know how valuable they are to the unit, the Army, and our Nation. Our Army Values and the Warrior Ethos give Soldiers guideposts to the future and will help instill a desire to reenlist throughout their careers. Leaders at all levels are responsible for instilling these values and for ensuring that Soldiers receive effective counseling to help them make informed decisions about their careers.

- Use your career counselors. Every brigade in USAREUR has at least one trained career counselor. These noncommissioned officers are your advisers on Army retention policy and are here to keep you informed of policy changes. Give them the time and resources they need to perform their duties. This is vital.

- Continue talking about retention with subordinate commanders. Give them a fair

share of your retention goals. Hold them accountable for meeting all retention goals

for both the AC and RC. Our success depends on commanders at the lowest levels accomplishing their unit retention mission. If they fail, we fail.


- If a good Soldier decides to leave active service, take time to talk to the individual about the benefits of "staying green." Emphasize the opportunities and benefits available in the Reserves and the National Guard. Also ensure these Soldiers attend their mandatory counseling with RC counse-

lors 120 days before their ETS. RC counselors are available to serve all of our communities and can provide specific information; but the personal interest you show in your Soldiers can affect their decision at this critical time in their career. The impression you make must be positive.

2. FY 04 was a turbulent year for our

Army, but we proudly met our missions on the battlefield, just as our predecessors have done over the years. We met our missions on the battlefield with active and Reserve Soldiers fighting side by side. We need to do our part to ensure that the active Soldier who departs USAREUR today has every opportunity to stay with the force as a Reserve Soldier. When you look to your left or right on tomorrow's battlefield, your ability to win will be in large measure a function of the strength of our great Army National Guard and Army Reserves.

3. The USAREUR G1 issues a memorandum each quarter on the USAREUR retention mission: to keep Soldiers on active duty or transfer them to the RC. Commanders and leaders at all levels must take this mission on directly to ensure that the Army has the Soldiers it needs to win the GWOT. Only this way can USAREUR Soldiers continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.


B.B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding



Gen. B. B. Bell

Army Europe realigns sexual assault awareness program

Bell Sends #16-05
March 15, 2005

Sexual Assault Prevention, Response Program

1. Last year I issued initial guidance regarding the Command's approach to sexual assault and published our Sexual Misconduct Awareness Campaign. Since then, we have received new DOD and Army-level guidance. To bring our program into line with this guidance, I have directed that USAREUR make a transition from the original Sexual Misconduct Awareness Campaign to a new Army in Europe Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. The new program will initially be published in April as a memorandum followed by a new Army in Europe regulation over the course of the next year.

2. DOD has defined sexual assault as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat, or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy, indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit any of these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship, or the age of the victim.

3. Sexual assault has no place in the Army. Allegations of sexual assault must be investigated promptly and impartially and resolved expeditiously. Commanders and leaders

at all levels are responsible for providing a safe and healthy environment for those in their charge. This responsibility requires leaders to take action to prevent sexual assault, protect and support victims, and hold offenders accountable by taking all appropriate administrative and judicial actions based on the facts and circumstances of each case.

4. The Army is committed to training leaders and Soldiers in this highly sensitive area. Progressive, sequential, and tailored training is the key to eliminating a climate that fosters sexual assault and hinders reporting. In Europe, training on the prevention of sexual assault will be part of inprocessing, annual unit training, leader development and professional military education programs, predeployment, and reintegration. In addition to this training, the Army plans to direct that each battalion appoint at least two unit victim advocates (UVAs) to provide support to victims throughout the medical, investigative, and judicial processes when it releases the new edition of AR 600-20 later this spring.

5. The crimes included in the definition of sexual assault are collectively the second most reported felony in the Army in Europe. Common factors in cases of sexual assault include the following:

- Young Soldiers (private through specialist) are the most likely victims and perpetrators.
- 76 percent of sexual assaults (including rape) occur in unlocked barracks or Government quarters.
- 74 percent of sexual assaults (including rape) involve

alcohol.

- 50 percent of the rape victims know the alleged offender.
- Most sexual assaults occur between 0100 and 0500 on Saturdays and Sundays.

6. Commanders and leaders can influence many of these factors through proactive preventive measures and education. As an example, commanders can provide rape prevention and alcohol-awareness training, implement a more stringent barracks policy, and increase the presence of unit leadership during high-risk periods.

7. Commanders and leaders must understand their inherent responsibility to respond compassionately but resolutely to allegations of sexual assault in their units. Persons alleging sexual assault against themselves will be considered victims and helped and protected, regardless of the final determination of the facts and circumstances in the case. This must be the approach and can be modified only after commanders fully examine the facts and circumstances. Victims must be helped and protected immediately when they allege an assault. I want victims to know that they have the following rights:

- The right to be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity and privacy.
- The right to immediate and effective medical care and attention, including long-term follow-up treatment, if eligible.

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Family readiness resources equip Soldiers

Provide piece of mind

By J.D. Hardesty

For nearly three decades, the Army has been transforming its fighting force.

The 1980s focused on Soldier readiness, the '90s on unit readiness and the first decade of the 20th Century on family readiness.

Collectively, it's a holistic approach similar to preventative medicine and overall wellness. Everything that affects Soldiers' performance, their physical fitness, the cohesiveness of a unit working as a team and taking care of their family while they take care of the nation's business, all are important to America's fighting force.

That wasn't always the case.

It is a different era from the '70s "If the Army wanted you to have a wife, they would have issued you one" mentality.

"Today, the Army sees the family," said Jan Nowowiejski, 80th Family Readiness Group advisor. "FRGs have resources to help and equip families just as the military has resources to train and equip Soldiers."

When major units deploy, an FRG and rear detachment is set up as a stabilizing conduit to flow communication to Soldiers' families. That support structure isn't necessarily the same when individual augmentees deploy from within the 80th ASG footprint.

SHAPE and NATO units that the 80th ASG supports and Sol-

diers from its own command are conducting missions in Europe, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Horn of Africa and elsewhere when called upon. The nation calls...that's what Soldiers do.

"We don't want Soldiers' families to fall through the cracks. With the ebb and flow of missions, training and deployments, we have to be vigilant," she said. "We have incorporated a philosophy similar to the Soldiers' Creed...No family member left behind."

With host nation and civilian workforces, combined with Soldiers and family members contributing to the community through the FRG, "we have the skill sets to inform and connect people to resources to help them solve problems," she said. "We affect Soldier readiness and unit readiness by providing peace of mind."

Nowowiejski said a "work in progress" attainable goal is to have all units fielded with a trained FRG leader.

As the "landlord" for a multinational, multi-service force serving half-way downrange, "many units have their own FRG but are separated by distance," she said.

"We know families are here in the Benelux, in our communities, and we want to provide them with the same support."

HHC, 80th ASG's Family Readiness Group meets on the second Friday at 7 p.m., monthly at the Prime Time Lounge. Persons interested in volunteering or needing assistance may contact their unit FRG for meeting times or additional information.



FAMILY from Page 1

our installations "all pulling together to make Army communities better."

Three major issues were discussed between Bell and the FRG leaders.

The general answered leaders' questions on funding leadership training and future positions by explaining financial resources for Family Readiness Support Liaison positions are being developed.

Another concern Bell addressed was FRG fundraising limits. "We are trying to increase the limit for FRGs fundraising efforts," he said. "We are developing limit restrictions based on need."

Website hosting was the FRG leaders' third major concern he addressed. "There are huge costs to protect government websites against corruption and viruses," he said about whether sites should be hosted in the public or private domain. "As the government continues to build sophisticated firewalls, I would prefer FRG websites be on a .mil extension because the more we do on our net the more military security is preserved."

PDP from Page 1

that our perception of readiness is the same for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines and their families. The focus of the 80th ASG commander (Col. Dean Nowowiejski) is to take care of family readiness, whether the sponsor is deployed downrange, temporary duty or attending military schools."

While Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Medina, U.S. Army NATO, found all of his records up-to-date, he said the entire process went smoothly. "We are at war," he said. "We could get called up anytime because, even though we are at NATO, we have missions downrange."

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Sandra Lucas, U.S. National Military Representative and a member of the SHAPE community thought bringing all of the services under one PDP umbrella was a good idea.

"We are all deployable at a moment's notice," she said. "I currently work with sister services in a joint environment -- a blended force. When they say we are a purple force, we need to work together and

this PDP is a good way of getting us there; of making sure everyone is prepared before we go."

According to Troxell, a family PDP is being scheduled for later this fall so that Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines will be able to attend with their spouses as well.

Troxell explained that a spouse sees their servicemember receive shots, blood work, records check, optometry, finance assistance for allotments and the Judge Advocate General's representative for legal and will issues, they know that the military is taking good care of its own.

"We want to be able to address a spouses questions and concerns as well, and this would provide a great community forum for all servicemembers and their families," Troxell said. "Our mission is to build family confidence."

"We ask our Armed Forces to do dangerous missions," he said. "The PDP is just one tool to remove some possible distractions that could be life-threatening on the battlefield."

Reserve forces backfill 80th needs

By J.D. Hardesty

Four Reservists, individual augmentees from across America, have mobilized to Belgium to backfill the 79th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) capabilities in the SHAPE/Chièvres community.

Maj. Phil Wentz, a Franklin, Ky., native from the 4220th USA Hostpital headquartered in Shoreham, N.Y., arrived with three other Soldiers to provide veterinary and food inspection support to the 80th Area Support Group.

Joining Wentz, is Staff Sgt. Kelly Sanders, mobilized from New Jersey; Spec. Tommy Collier, from San Antonio and Spec. Michael Pavon, from Chicago.

"The transition is working very well," Wentz said.

"I'm sure there are challenges ahead because we don't know each other very well, but as we work together helping each other out everything will run smoothly."

The four have been finishing up inprocessing while starting some clinical support and working with a satellite clinic in Schinnen, the Netherlands."

The transition is "somewhat seamless," Wentz said, because of overlap time with the 79th.

He said the Reservists' goal is to "provide as good and improving food hygiene for this command and be supportive of the community."

The 80th ASG staff have been accommodating in helping us transition from the Reserves to active duty, Wentz said.

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pets. As explosive ordnance detection equipment, they provide great protection for coalition forces."

The working dogs are unlike any other piece of tactical equipment deployed in the theater.

Military police dog handlers have a special working relationship with their partners. They groom, feed, water, and meet all the other specific needs for their team to be successful.

Just like the Soldiers they work with, dogs can get injured and need

medical attention as well.

"If one of the dogs gets injured, we try to stabilize and evacuate as soon as possible," he said.

The other critical mission is to insure that all of the food at the commissary and dining facilities are inspected of quality and consumption.

"Our people know how to do their jobs," Richard said. "As we augment with our 64th counterparts, we are working on becoming a cohesive unit."

While this is Richard's first downrange deployment into a combat zone for Sgt. Randy Billings, the 79th's garrison noncommissioned officer-in-charge, "moving out" supports the units' true mission.

This is Billings' third deployment downrange since joining the 79th. He previously spent tours in Kosovo and Iraq.

For Richard and Billings, the mission is working in a big-unit format. "We'll see if all of the training has paid off," Richard said.

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need to have a lot of people tell us thank you," she said. "That's our job, that's what we do."

In this time of war, units are busy but they did their mission above standard, and still found time to compete. "If ever there was a time to say, 'we're too busy,' it's probably now, and our units have not done that," Halstead said.

IMA-E Army Award for Supply Excellence for FY 2004

went to the following units:

☐ TOE Company: HHC, 6th Area Support Group.

Small TDA: HHC, 98th ASG

☐ Property Book: Property Book, 222nd Base Support Bn., 104th ASG

☐ Small Supply Support Activity: Supply Support Activity, 80th ASG

☐ Large Supply Support Activity: Supply Support Activ-

ity, 22nd ASG

The runners-up include:

☐ Small TDA: HQ & HQ Detachment, 235th BSB, 98th ASG

☐ Property Book: Property Book, 80th Area Support Bn.

☐ Small Supply Support Activity: Supply Support Activity, Class III POL, Grafenwoehr, 100th ASG

☐ Large Supply Support Activity: Regional Supply Support Activity, 100th ASG

BELL from Page 2

• The right to be reasonably protected from the accused offender.

• The right to be notified of court proceedings.

• The right to be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense (unless the court determines otherwise).

• The right to talk with the attorney for the Government in the case.

• The right to restitution, if appropriate.

• The right to information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, and release of the offender from custody.

8. Victims deserve professional, competent,

and compassionate assistance. Again, assistance must be made available to the victim immediately after an allegation is made, regardless of the status of the criminal or command investigation. Commanders must ensure that victims are aware of the support services available in the command and community to help them through their difficult ordeal. These services include, but are not limited to, those available from law enforcement officials, medical providers (social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists), judge advocates, chaplains, UVAs, community victim advocates (CVAs), and sexual assault re-

sponse coordinators (SARCs). The CVAs and SARCs will be embedded in Army Community Service and work under the auspices of the Family Advocacy Program in our communities. The SARCs will oversee local implementation of the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. The CVAs, like the UVAs, are available to help victims and provide support throughout the medical, investigative, and judicial processes. In garrison, Soldiers will have the option of seeking assistance from the UVA or CVA based on personal preference.

9. This issue deserves our utmost atten-

tion. I want to ensure that you understand our responsibilities and share my concern for the safety of the Soldiers, civilians, and family members who live and work in our communities. Our units and community resources must be ready to ensure the well-being of our force so that we can continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.

B.B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

254th BSB Tri-border News

AFNORTH holds 'March Madness' competition



Photo by Alan Boswell

AFNORTH Varsity Girls Team gather with team coach Greg Blankenship (kneeling) to discuss new game strategy at the March Madness Basketball competition.

The 254th Base Support Battalion Youth Sports Program, sponsored a 'March Madness' event March 5, at AFNORTH International School.

The event, began with the AFNORTH girl's varsity basketball team defeating the AFNORTH Lakers, the female staff members, in a close game, 25-20.

The Lakers, led throughout most of the game until the fourth period, when they were out-scored by the girls varsity team to capture the win.

"The girls' varsity team's defense and the team's strong desire to win helped them to turn the game around," said the Lakers coach Pete Nunn.

Varsity Team Captain Brittani Ervin and Tauree Blankenship each led the girls' var-

sity with seven points. Ramona Murray led the AFNORTH Lakers with six points, while Jean Marie Grab had six rebounds, and Mary McAubrey handed out six assists.

After the girl's game, half-time events were held. There was a free throw competition and a three-point, shoot-out.

During the free throw competition, Greg Blankenship, coach for the AFNORTH men's faculty team 'Over-30', was defeated by Shannon Guzman, 15-13.

Matt Hyland won the three-point shoot-out. Matt defeated Brittani Ervin 18-15. As a special note: AFNORTH principal, Doug Carlson, defeated vice principal, Eldridge Groomes, 4-1 in the free throw competition.

After the halftime break, the AFNORTH varsity boy's team took on the "Over 30"

AFNORTH men's team.

The high school boys jumped out to a 12-3 lead, but before the day was over, the "Over 30" team, lead by Coach Blankenship, used their wisdom to defeat the younger high school varsity team 49-24.

Blankenship led all scorers with 20 points, followed by Adrian Koene with 12 points. Wayne Bardell came off the bench to contribute six points, six rebounds, and four assists.

"March Madness would not have been a success without the help of community volunteers," said Pete Nunn, youth sports assistant. "A special note of thanks to Willie Short, Steven Williamson, Wallace Turner, Alan Boswell, Doug Carlson, The Booster Club, Mr. and Mrs. Farris, and Kiara Nunn," Nunn said.

Conference helps resolve community issues

The Armed Forces Family Action Plan (AFAP) conference met March 10-11, at the JFC Brunssum Chapel to discuss issues affecting members of the Tri-Border community.

The 254th BSB Army Community Service hosted the conference, inviting representatives to help make changes for the good of the Tri-Border community.

The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is a program that seeks to resolve significant issues that affect Army well-being. It is a "grass roots" process where service members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and their families have a voice on issues affecting their quality of life. Twenty-seven representatives of 254th BSB directorates and tenant/support agencies, to include those on Geilenkirchen and JFC Brunssum, broke into four groups to identify issues, make recommendations and raise other issues to the appropriate level. Progress will be monitored by Sheilla Lee, AFAP coordinator, on those that are forwarded until they are resolved.

"If an issue can't be resolved at the BSB level, it's forwarded to the 80th Area Support Group where it's evaluated and prioritized," said Lee. "At that point, the issue can be retained for action, returned here, or submitted to the IMA-Europe conference in May or DA-level conference held in the fall."

Many Tri-Border delegates believe their discussions will benefit the community. "The AFAP conference was a tremendous suc-

cess," said Sgt. 1st Class Jose Cruz. "I have learned things that I did not know in my 18 years of service. This is a wonderful program to help all the personnel in the Armed Forces and DOD. All the issues were valid and will make a change in the lives of our young Soldiers and the community."

Issues ranged from armed forces fitness center privileges for teens, to the use of Cost of Living Allowances to determine prices for child care. Of the 62 issues submitted and discussed this year, the following were selected as top issues:

Armed forces fitness center privileges for teens: The Armed forces fitness center regulations exclude teens under 18 from working out without parental supervision and teens under 16 from working out at all. Access to the fitness facility is needed to promote physical fitness and provide teens with positive, healthy and constructive activities. Teens can be responsible for the equipment after they have had the proper training. Recommendation: Allow age 13 and older to work out at the fitness center after they have successfully completed a training course and have been certified to use the facility and provide parental liability waiver to allow teens to use the fitness center.

Establishment of career incentive proficiency pay to enhance retention: Retention of highly skilled personnel within DOD does not meet current force requirements. The loss of highly skilled personnel in all career



Photo by Ed Carter

AFAP group discusses issues presented by concerned members of the community and make recommendations to issues

fields disrupts continuity among DOD organizations causing mission tempo to be adversely affected. This results in these organizations incurring additional costs in the retraining and recruitment of unskilled personnel. This has the potential for loss of life and mission failure. Recommendation: Implementation of incentive pay for career enhancing skills and establishing testing criteria for

proficiency pay.

Hours of operation for AAFES and DECA: The hours of operation for AAFES and DECA do not coincide with the needs of the community at large. Operating hours are not conducive to the geographically separated unit communities due to lack of communication with reference to hours of

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Commentary

Roles of women in society continue to change

Story by Laurri Garcia

Each year we mark the contributions of various ethnicities and minorities in our country with monthly diversity observances and celebrations, for example Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and African-American History Month. While each observance is worthy in its own right, and touches many throughout our nation, Women's History Month reflects significance in every family. We all have a mother, sister, aunt, or grandmother whose life we use to gauge our own accomplishments and measure change.

Forty years ago, women in the work place were, for the most part, tied to service industry or clerical positions, if they ventured outside the home. Nowhere is the change in women's roles in our society more relevant than in our military. Today female Soldiers perform a variety of jobs in the armed forces, from mechanics to chaplain and every genre in between.

The 254th Base Support Battalion is a "looking glass" of change reflecting diverse women's roles and changing focus. Women in the military represent a melting pot of diversity and culture, with one binding similarity, they are all successful women, working in a once male dominated environment, and holding their own.



Photo by Sylvia Bowron

Jane Chassot, Extended Family Member Program coordinator confirms an appointment.

the success of our armed forces.

Jane Chassot, Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator for the 254th, remembers her mother wanting to be a nurse. "Mom told me she wanted to be a nurse, but her goals changed when she married and had a family," she said. "I believe the demands on today's women are greater. We do everything our mothers did caring for home and family, but more of us work outside the home." Chassot believes women of her mother's generation are at a place in their life where they can give today's working women valuable advice on how to cope with life and handle stress.

Sgt. Mecheundra Jackson, a personnel information systems management sergeant, for AFNORTH Battalion at HQ Joint Forces Command, in Brunssum, feels the Army has helped her find a place of her own and opened doors to many more opportunities than her predecessors had. "There are more opportunities for women in the Army now than in the past," stated the Damascus, Ga., native. "There are a lot more women in leadership positions and that encourages me to seek a higher goal. Knowing I will not be judged as a woman, but on my ability and job performance."

Female Soldiers make up an intricate part of today's military, but as we transition, government employees play a vital role in

Connie Andrews, strategic planner for the 254th, also remembers her mother being a stay-at-home mom. "She did what most women did during my childhood; she raised the kids while my dad worked. The opportunities just did not exist back then," commented Andrews. "I, on the other hand, was the wild-child. I chose to be radical, question the system and work." Andrews remembers when she first started working for Pacific Telephone in 1965, she could not wear pants to work and women were not allowed to work in the field like the men. "We went on strike to push for changes and were overjoyed when two of our co-workers were allowed to hold positions outside the norm. Those positions meant equality in pay and advancement opportunity, it was a big deal," said Andrews. "Nevertheless, that was then and today we have female commanders, directors and supervisors. The only thing holding women back today is themselves."

Lt. Col. Rick Richardson, commander of the 254th BSB sees the women working for the 254th, as well as those serving in the Army, as a dynamic work force poised to take responsibility and effect positive change in this community and throughout the Army. "The 2005 Women's History Month theme, Women Change America, honors and recognizes the role of American women, but here at Schinnen, I think a theme of Women Change the World is more appropriate," he said. Our Soldiers, along with U.S. and Dutch civilians have made significant and lasting contributions to our mission and quality of life in the Tri-border area. I am grateful for the talents and contributions of the women on our team.

254th BSB Tri-border News

Women's History Month theme... 'Women change lives'



Photo: Sylvia Bowron

Sgt. Mecheundra Jackson, personnel information systems management, AFNORTH Battalion, JFC Brunssum.

By Sgt. 1st Class David Williams

The first Women's History Week was celebrated in Sonoma, Calif. in 1978. By 1981, Congress passed a reso-

lution proclaiming national Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress extended this to a month-long celebration, and March was declared Women's History Month.

This year's theme for Women's History Month is 'Women Change Lives'. Since the inception of this national celebration, we continue to remember and highlight the contributions of women and how they have changed the American way of life.

Throughout history women have generally had fewer legal rights and opportunities than men. In the 20th Century, women have won the right to vote and increased their educational and job opportunities. The women's movement of the '60s caused women to ask why they were omitted from traditional history books and aroused their desire and conviction to pursue other roles outside the home.

Today, women have a major impact on our society both economically and culturally. Women vote proportionately in larger numbers than men.

Statistically, women attend colleges and universities at the rate of five to one when compared to their male counterparts.

The Women's Rights movement ended this ideology. Women's groups across America throughout the '60s and '70s began trying to resolve discrimination and unfair practices in the work place. This movement lifted social barriers that had been in place for decades.

In the U.S., the percentage of women employed rose nearly 65 percent from the mid 1960s to present.

Today's women are the primary bread winner in many families across the country. Although women are employed in record numbers, there are still disparities between men

and women's salary, and promotions. Women throughout the U.S. frequently face a double burden of being the homemaker and working outside the home.

Significant cultural changes have occurred in today's society as a result of women's efforts to make the playing field even.

Many organizations have incorporated guidelines that eliminate male exclusive words such as fireman and policeman, and changed them to fire fighter and police officer. Career fields previously dominated by men such as electronics, science, engineering, construction and the armed forces are now occupied by women.

The role of women in the armed forces has grown tremendously over time. History tells us that women have been in and played a major role in every war from the Civil War to the present Global War on Terrorism. Military women perform a sundry of jobs that range from administration and supply to, nursing, medical assistants, truck drivers, mechanics, pilots.

Many of these changes in women's roles have affected the way many people conduct themselves. For example, men are now taking a bigger part in parenting and taking on some of the responsibilities that women held for so many years.

There are still notable differences that exist between women and men. Some men still hold on to the pre-'60s thought of 'a woman's place is in the home' and continue to resist the change. However, the final outcome with the changing attitudes and values has yet to be seen. The trend towards greater equality of the sexes will continue to grow in years to come and women continue to 'change lives'.



Just follow the link to tell me what you think

How many of you know what this is? You may have seen it at the bottom of an e-mail, or on a website when you filled out an on-line comment card about service you received. Regardless of where you saw it, do you understand what it is, and what purpose it serves?

This logo and URL link to an Interactive Customer Evaluation system, better known as ICE. ICE is a web-based tool that collects feedback on services provided here at the 254th Base Support Battalion and at various installations throughout the Department of Defense.

The 254th BSB implemented the program in Feb. of 2004, and to date has collected over 2500 customer comment cards. Presently the program at the 254th, run by the Plans Analysis and Integration Office (PAIO), is registering a 98 percent satisfaction rate.

According to a spokesperson for PAIO, the 254th was the first organization to combine the ICE logo and the website URL and place them at the bottom of each staff member's e-mail. "This provides our customers a simple and unobstructed link to the ICE system on a regular basis," stated Frans Meisen, ICE Program Manager for the 254th BSB, it also allows our customers to rate services at their convenience, while providing them sense of anonymity." ICE also provides

service members and DOD employees a benchmark to measure services provided at other installations. "They can see for themselves the quality of service provide at their gaining unit or any other installation," added Meisen.

ICE allows program managers and installation commanders to gauge the satisfaction of its populace, and allows them the opportunity to correct any deficiencies. "When a negative ICE comment is received, directors have three days to respond to the comment with either a phone call or in writing," explained Meisen. "Implementation of the ICE program here at the 254th BSB has improved customer satisfaction and employee morale, stated Meisen. In the beginning employees may have felt a bit apprehensive about the program, but now with its proven benefit, most see any comment negative or positive as an opportunity to improve the process and sustain quality customer service practices." In the end, ICE card submissions allow everyone the opportunity to provide better service to their customers.

"The next time you see this logo take a moment to rate the service you received," urged Meisen, "by doing so you're contributing to the community and the command, by ensuring Schinnen lives up to its motto, *Your Community of Choice*."

Soldier Spotlight



Sgt. Edith Sedli, Battalion Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer, talks to Ms. Chapman's kindergarten students about 'stranger danger' and who to call for help.

Story and photo by Sylvia Bowron

Sgt. Edith Sedli, the 254th Base Support Battalion Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer takes her job seriously. A native of Levittown, Pa., Sedli is dedicated to teaching children, preschool age through sixth grade, the dangers of substance abuse.

Sedli applied for the position of D.A.R.E. officer because of her strong belief in the program and her interest in working with children.

"Police officers from 58 countries participate in the D.A.R.E. program and the number of countries instructing children in the program continues to grow, said Sedli. "Officers receive 80 hours of special training in areas of child development, classroom management, teaching techniques, and communication skills," said

Sedli. "I received my training in Germany before starting in the program.

"D.A.R.E. is designed to give kids the skills they need to avoid involvement with drugs, gangs, and violence," Sedli continued. "For the youngsters in kindergarten, we talk about stranger danger, the importance of knowing their phone number, address, and how to use the emergency phone number." She was surprised by how many kids don't know their phone number or address.

Sedli, a nine-year Army veteran, said that all children are told the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco use and are given ideas for positive alternatives.

As the children get older, Sedli teaches them good decision-making skills, and how to recognize and resist peer pressure.

"I teach them how to make their own decisions, raise their self-esteem and help them identify positive alternatives to drugs," said Sedli. "We do role playing and emphasize the negative results of drug use," she continued. "It is also important to reinforce the skill to resist peer pressure and intimidation."

Sedli believes that the D.A.R.E. program is a critical element in teaching students about the threat of drugs and the importance of making good decisions. "It's important for all children and for their future," Sedli concluded.

CONFERENCE ISSUES from Page 4

operations and special openings and closings. This causes an unnecessary inconvenience to already remote sites. **Recommendation:** Do a complete survey of remote sites and the Schinnen community to see what extended hours would be most convenient to serve the entire military community and adjust hours according to survey results.

Discrepancy between Pacific and European regions Space "A" leave categories: Service members within Europe are not afforded the same leave categories of Space "A" travel as those service members assigned to the Pacific regions regarding ordinary leave. Ser-

vice members in category 3 are more likely to incur additional costs such as commercial travel, lodging, food, transportation to and from air terminal, leave time and unnecessary stress. **Recommendation:** All service members assigned to the European region should be placed in category 2, environmental morale, for ordinary leave, so that it is comparable to travel categories of those service members assigned to the Pacific region.

COLA included to set Child Development Centers (CDC) price bracket: COLA is being used in determining the CDC price bracket. Am I mistaken in believing that we

are given COLA to help offset the Euro costs of living and shopping on the local economy? Spouses are not eager to accept employment in our community knowing that 75 to 80 percent of their income would have to go to a childcare provider. **Recommendation:** Not include COLA in childcare factoring. COLA puts service member into higher categories, because of the Euro fluctuation. The difference of the high cost range and low cost range are much less than monthly Euro fluctuation.

The top four services in the community were also selected: Army Emergency Relief,

Medical and Dental (470th Medical Flight), Department of Defense Dependent Schools, and the commissary. A salute to these agencies for providing great services!

"I think we got down to the root-level issues that concern our community," said Raquel Cajudo, ACS director. "The working groups did a wonderful job discussing the issues and forming recommendations - we couldn't have been so productive or successful if it wasn't for their interest and participation. As a community, I think we're all willing to pull together to help make life better for everyone."

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254th BSB Local Calendar

Appliance information

Placing a refrigerator in an unheated area like a garage may cause it to malfunction during cold weather. If the ambient temperature outside your refrigerator is colder than inside, the refrigerator will automatically switch to the DEFROST mode of operation.

This happens at 40 F (5 C) ambient temperature. To avoid problems, it is recommended that the refrigerator be moved to a heated location.

For additional information please call the Directorate of Public Works, Furnishings Management Branch, Quality Assurance section at 360-7389 or 31 (0)46443-7389.

Experienced track volunteers needed

AFNORTH International School is looking for volunteers to assist in training the track team. If you have some track experience and can give the team some help, please contact Doug DeBacker at 31(0)45-527-8270 or Doug.Debacker@eu.dodea.edu.

Vendor stockers wanted

Vendor stockers are needed evenings, hours are flexible. Contact Deborah Crain, Schinnen Commissary 360-7515.

Couples Communication Class set

Army Community Services (ACS) Couples Communication (PREP) Classes are offered the last Tuesday and Wednesday night of

each month. The next class is scheduled for March 29-30, 6-8 p.m. at ACS.

Volunteers recognized

Army Community Services holds the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 19, 4-6 p.m. Info: Teri Ryan at DSN 360-7451 or 31 46443-7451.

Geilenkirchen clinic holiday closure

The Geilenkirchen U.S. Medical Clinic will be closed for the NATO holidays March 25-28, for Good Friday and Easter Monday.

For medical emergencies during this time, go to the nearest civilian emergency room. Patients who do not have a 470th Medical Flight Clinic Handbook which lists emergency room directions should be sure to get and keep a copy of this booklet in their home. A copy of the latest edition, Nov. 2004, can be obtained at the TRICARE office.

Toll free access numbers to a confidential 24 hour health advice line staffed by U.S. nurses are as follows: Germany: 0800 825-1600; Netherlands: 0800 022-7944 and Belgium: 0800-71920.

Alliance Theatre presents "Plaza Suite"

The Alliance Players will perform Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" April 28-30, and May 1, at the JFC Alliance Theatre. Show times are: April 28, Sneak Preview Charity Night at 6:30 p.m. (all proceeds will go to the International Red Cross); April 29, 8:00 p.m.; April 30, 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and May 1, at 4

p.m. Tickets are Euro 6 and go on sale April 1, at JFC Brunssum- The HIVE - contact Jo McKerrel at 31(0) 45 526 -891 and at Geilenkirchen JVD Elementary School - contact Sandy Basseet at 49 2452 15-6006

Accountant wanted

The Thrift Shop is looking for someone with accounting experience to conduct their annual audit from May 15-June 15. Pay is \$100 for 10 hours. For more information, contact Kim Lowe, 31 (0)46451-6430, or email chrisandkim@earthlink.net.

Donate unwanted items

If you are getting ready to PCS why not donate your un-packables to the Thrift Shop. Items accepted are: refrigerated and/or canned food; Household cleaners; European only items (i.e. appliances etc.) and potted plants.

On-duty courses offered

Dutch Headstart classes will be held March 29 – April 8, and May 31 – June 10, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday through Friday at the education center. All military newcomers and their family members are welcome to participate in the Headstart classes. The program is free of charge and designed to acquaint participants with their host nation.

The Advanced Skill Education Program (ASEP) course, MTPF 1170, Personal Financial Management for NCOs I, is offered April 18 – 22 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Treebeek Education

Center. The course is also offered at the unit based on unit request and student availability. This course is designed to enhance leadership and job skills and students can receive one hour civilian college credit also. Units can MIPR the course for on-site training.

Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST) is being offered June 3 – 24, Monday through Friday from 1 – 5 p.m. FAST is a job-related reading and mathematics program. Being able to solve problems, understand what is read and also write effectively as necessary to succeed in any field.

For more information on these classes call the Education Center at DSN 364-6060/41 or CIV 31 45 563-6060/41.

Anheuser-Busch 'Heroes Salute'

Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. 'Heroes Salute' is offering a free single-day admission to its Sea World and Busch Gardens parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen. The program continues through Dec. 31, to honor U.S. Armed Services personnel.

Military personnel and their families who may be taking leave, or who have family in the states may take advantage of the program by registering at www.heroesalute.com. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents. For more information go to www.herosalute.com.

Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

Mar. 25: Bach's *Matthäus Passion* performed by the Limburg Symphonic Orchestra (LSO) at Theater aan het Vrijthof in the center of Maastricht (NL). Entry: Euro 30. Information: 31 (0)43-3280878.

Mar. 25-28: *Spring Lifestyle Fair* at Castle Nienoord in Leek (NL). At this attractive fair one will find, among more, local products and delicatessen, flowers, plants, Norwegian sweaters and Italian Jewelry. Open: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Information: 31 (0)58-2128723.

Mar. 26: The *Kennedy March* starts and finishes in Sittard (NL). In 1963, John F. Kennedy said in one of his speeches that as a result of the modern affluent society, nobody could walk 50 miles within 20 hours anymore. As a result of this statement, many people all over the world walked 50 miles or 80 km. In Sittard it even became an annual event, named the Kennedy March. Information: www.kennedymars.org.

Mar. 26-28: *Pasar Malam Asia*. This large, indoor Asian/Indonesian market takes place at the Ahoy in Rotterdam (NL) and has many stands with Asian food, clothes and other articles. Open: noon-11 p.m. Entry: Euro 7; children (2-10) Euro 2. Information: www.ahoy.nl.

Pasar Malam Bali. At this indoor Asian (Indonesian) year market at IJsselhallen in Zwolle (NL) one will find lots of food and music. Entry: Euro 8.50. Information: 31 (0)38-4211843.

Mar. 27: *PC Discount*, a fair with all kinds of videogames and computer games at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Entry: Euro 7. Information: 31 (0)43-3838383.

Mar. 27-28: At the *Medieval Castle Court Fest* at Castle Hoensbroek, Klinkertstraat 118 in Hoensbroek (NL) you will find puppets, actors in medieval costumes, music, old crafts and lots more. Open: both days 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Entry: Euro 4.50; children Euro 3.25. Information: 31 (0)45-5227272.

Large indoor *Flea Market* at Ahoy in Rotterdam (NL). Open: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: Euro 3; children (12-18) Euro 2.30. Informa-

tion: www.ahoy.nl or 31 (0)10-2100665.

Mar. 28: *Art & Antique Market* at Market Square in the center of Delft (NL).

Easter Year Market in the center of Panningen (NL), 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Apr. 1: *The Relief of Brielle (NL)*. The fest commemorates the town's relief from the Spaniards (1572) and starts with the re-enactment of the liberation. Information: 31 (0)181-403929.

Apr. 1-10: At the *Household Fair* at RAI in Amsterdam (NL) visitors will find the newest trends in fashion, living, food, work, recreation, household and more. Entry: Euro 13.50; children (5-12) Euro 5.50. Information: 31 (0)20-5491212.

Apr. 1-Sept. 2: Traditional *Cheese Market* in the center of Alkmaar (NL) where the bearers wear the traditional costumes of their guild and visitors will also find demonstrations of Old Crafts. Open **ONLY** on Fridays, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Apr. 2-3: At Castle "Brocante", antique and flea market, at Castle de Renesse on Lierselei in Oostmalle (BE) about 25 dealers offer their best pieces. They have furniture, linen, glass, ceramics and many knickknacks and decorative objects from Grandmothers time. Open: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 32 (0)3-3115454.

Apr. 6-10: *Miniature Quilts Exhibition* at Klooster Agnetenberg, Rosmolenstraat 22-24a in Sittard (NL). The exhibition has about 180 miniature quilts on display. Many are from Japan, the US and Germany. Open: Apr. 6, noon-5 p.m.; other days, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: Euro 4.

Apr. 8-10: *Lifestyle Garden Fair* at Castle Ooidonk in Deinze (BE) with plants, garden furniture, antiques and lots more. Open: Friday, 2-6:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Information: 32 (0)477-358065.

Benelux Computer. Computer fair in Beursgebouw on Lardinoisstraat in Eindhoven (NL). Entry: Euro 8. Information: 31 (0)40-2463626.



JFC Alliance Theater

Mar. 25, 7:30 p.m. *In Good Company*. Starring Dennis Quaid, Topher Grace. Rated PG-13. Dan is demoted from head of ad sales in a corporate takeover. His new boss, Carter, is half his age and a business school prodigy who preaches corporate synergy. Both men are going through turmoil at home. Dan and Carter's relationship is thrown into jeopardy when Carter begins an affair with Dan's daughter.

Mar. 26, 4 p.m. *Coach Carter*. Starring Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Richard. Rated PG-13. Coach Ken Carter, who oversees the direction of Richmond High School's basketball program in California, found himself in the center of controversy when he locked out his entire Varsity basketball team (including his own son) in order to motivate

and push them to improve their grades. He was even prepared to cancel his entire season after 15 of his 45 players failed to live up to the classroom standards they agreed to in a contract they had signed earlier in the semester.

7 p.m. *Assault on Precinct 13*. Starring Ethan Hawke, Laurence Fishburne. Rated R. A notorious cop-killer and mobster Marion Bishop is unexpectedly brought into a Detroit precinct during a blizzard on New Year's Eve. By nightfall, the remaining cops and prisoners find themselves fighting for their lives against a group of rogue cops intent on taking down Bishop before he testifies against them in the courtroom. Now it's up to the officers and inmates on the inside to band together just to survive this one night.

Through May 16: *"Hongerwinter 44/45"* Exhibition at Museum van de Twintigste Eeuw, Bierkade 4 in Hoorn (NL). Sixty years ago the Dutch experienced a horrendous final WWII winter. It was an extremely cold

winter and many people starved. Memories of this winter of starvation are relived in this exposition through poignant stories and numerous objects. Admission: Euro 4. Information: 31 (0)229-214001.

AFNORTH Chapel – Easter Events 2005

March 24 – US Catholic Maundy Thursday Service – 5 p.m.
UK Anglican Maundy Thursday Service – 7:30 p.m.

March 25 – German Protestant Good Friday Service – 9:45 a.m.
UK Anglican Good Friday Service – 10 a.m.
US Catholic Good Friday Service – 5 p.m.
US Protestant Good Friday Service – 7 p.m.

March 27 – German Protestant Easter Sunday Service – 6 a.m.
US Protestant Sunday Service – 9:30 a.m.
UK Anglican Easter Service – 11 a.m.
US Catholic Easter Service – 11 a.m.
Polish Catholic Easter Service – 1 p.m.

March 28 – US Catholic Easter Monday Service – 11 a.m.

SHAPE / Chièvres Local Calendar

New: Family Readiness Group (FRG) meetings every 2nd Friday of the month 7-8.30 p.m. at the Prime Time Lounge.

Arts and Crafts Centre - *Children's classes at the during spring recess*, March 28-April 8, with activities for children as young as 3 years. Info and schedule: DSN 423-4680.

Army Volunteer Corps - *April 6*, 9 a.m.-4.30 p.m., deadline for volunteer nominations; *April 20*, deadline to RSVP for ceremony; *April 29*, 12-2 p.m., annual volunteer awards ceremony, IC Club SHAPE. Open to entire community. DSN 423-4270.

BOSS tropical dance - *April 1*, 9 p.m., April fools tropical dance at the IC Club, SHAPE. Next BOSS Meetings April 7, 21, at 1:30 p.m., Community Cativity Center, SHAPE.

Arts & Crafts Center Classes - *April 1-8*, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Children's Easter Recess Arts & Crafts classes; *April 4-5*, 10 a.m.-noon, framing class; *April 9*, 23 10.30 a.m.-noon, power tool orientation class; *April 11*, 9 a.m.-noon, basketry for beginners; *April 12 – May 3*, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., basic ceramics class; *April 13-27*, 4-6 p.m., children's basis ceramics, *April 16*, 10.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m., quilting: all day. Bldg. 209, SHAPE. DSN 423-4680.

ACS Newcomers Briefing: April's newcomers orientation starts the second Wednesday of the month, followed by Take the Bus class on Thursday, Take the Train class on Friday and Cultural Adaptation Trip on Saturday. For info call ACS at 423-4332.

ACS financial classes: *April 1*, 8.30-11.30 a.m., Money Management; *April 6*, 1-2.30 p.m., Financial Responsibility & Checkbook Management; *April 26*, 9-10.30 a.m. Saving and Investing. For info call DSN 423-4824.

Entertainment Centre news - Auditions for *A Few Good Men*, by Aaron Sorkin, Auditions for new play: *April 11* at 12 p.m., *April 12* at 7.30 p.m., and *April 13-14* at 6 p.m.. Advanced Acting Class by Dan Lamorte, *April 18-19*, 6-9 p.m., depending on number of participants. Shape Entertainment Centre info: www.shapeonline.net, DSN 423-3312, 065 44 33 12.

Self Care Class - *April 12*, 10-11 a.m., SHAPE Health Clinic, 2nd Floor, conference room., DSN 423-5948.

Cultural Adaptation Trip - *April 16*, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit a Belgian vintage store, guided tour of one of the oldest breweries in Brussels . Cost is Euro 5 and includes the entry fee to the Brewery.



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

John Nicopoulos, one of 14 students from Maureen Murray-Barthelme's second-grade class at SHAPE Elementary School reads *Cows That Type* with Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army, Europe commander in chief, as part of the school's "Read Across America" campaign.

Seating is limited. Info call DSN 423-4332.

Prime Time Lounge - Lunch served Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Lounge opens Mon.-Fri. at 5 p.m., weekend at 7 p.m. Karaoke Night, every Friday at 8.30 p.m. Country Night every second Saturday of the month at 8.30 p.m.

SHAPE Trips and Tours - *March 25*, Luxembourg encore!; *March 26*, Paris; *March 29* Aqualibi; *March 30*, Dutch Royal Palace Het Loo and Holland's National Park De Hoge Veluwe; *April 1-8*, Spain; *April 2*, Lille; *April 5*, Han-sur-Lesse; *April 9*, Fontainebleau; *April 11-16*, Two country shopping tour; *April 16*, Delft and Keukenhof; *April 17*, Rhine River cruise; *April 23*, Versailles; *April 24*, horseback riding in Cuesmes; *April 30*, horseback riding in Chaleux; bldg. 307, Community Activity Centre, SHAPE. Info: 065 44 3884, DSN 423-3884, or Email: ST&T@benelux.army.mil.

Health and Wellness - *Weight Loss Classes* meet every Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., SHAPE Health clinic, 2nd floor, conf. room. Weight Loss Support group meets 3 times a week a various locations throughout the community. Contact DSN 423-5948 for dates and locations. *Tobacco Cessation clinic* every Wednesday, 3-4 p.m. at the SHAPE Health Clinic, Pharmacy, DSN 423-5948.

NSA Brussels Calendar

NSA CY5: *March 26* Easter egg hunt, face painting, egg coloring and egg toss. Info: 02-717-9665.

Parenting class, *March 28*, 6:30-8:30 p.m., "Building Courage, Character and Self-Esteem;" *April 4*, 10 a.m.-noon, "Communication -- The Road to Cooperation;" NSA Chapel, Fellowship Hall. Sign up: DSN 368-9783.

NSA Outdoor recreation: *April 2*, Canterbury: Depart from NSA-S (BAS) *April 2*, 5 a.m., return 10:30 p.m. Brussels to Calais, where a Car Ferry to Dover (U.K.) Enjoy the English breakfast and shopping on board, with a planned stop at Dover Castle for pictures only and drive on to Canterbury. Cost is \$45 for adults \$39 for children; *April 9* - Day-trip to Keukenhof Flower Fields & Delft; *April 16* – Day trip to Paris; *April 30*-Day trip to Amsterdam. Call for info DSN 368-9775

NSA newcomer's briefing: *April 19*, 8.45 a.m.-2.30 p.m. - Overview, NSA, Bldg. 3, Command Conference Room; *April 20*, 9.30 a.m.-noon, Tour Leuven Hospital, meet at ACS, Bldg. 4 at 9.25 a.m.; *April 21*, 9.30-11 a.m., Tour Delhaize in Kraainem, meet at ACS, Bldg. 4, NSA; *April 22*, 9.25 a.m.-2.30 p.m. - Metro Madness Class, ACS, Bldg 4, top floor, DSN 368-9729 or DSN 368-9783.

Army Volunteer Corps, *April 17* – National Volunteer week, NSA, room 306; *April 22* – Deadline to RSVP for Annual Installation Volunteer Recognition, DSN 368-9679; *April 29*, 7.30

p.m.-midnight – Annual Installation Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, Three-Star Lounge, Bldg. 1, NSA, DSN 368-9822.

Free ACS computer classes: *April 18*, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. – MS Word; *April 19*, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. – MS Excel; *April 20*, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. – MS PowerPoint and MS Outlook; *April 21*, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. – MS Access.

NSA Education Center: *April 1*, 12-2 p.m. Student Consultation at the Community Liason Office, DSN 368-9704; *April 13*, 8.30 a.m. CLEP, DANTES, ECE and other selected tests, NSA Education Center, DSN 368-9704; *April 18-29*, 9 a.m.-noon - HEADSTART: Free Dutch Language Orientation Course, NSA Education Center, Bldg. 1, Room 324, DSN 368-9704; *April 27*, 12-1 p.m. - Special briefing: Creative ways of completing a degree, NSA Education Center, Bldg. 1, Classroom 1, DSN 368-9704.

Family matters, *April 28-May 1*, (formerly known as Parent University). Call DSN 368-9693 for times and location.

Three-Star Lounge April events *April 1*, 5-7 p.m. Right Arm Night, ; *April 7*, 14, 21 and 28 from 7 p.m.-midnight – Movie Night; *April 8*, 9 p.m. Dart Night; *April 9*, 7-9 p.m. Family Night; *April 16*, 22, 9 p.m. Karaoke; *April 22*, 9 p.m. Pool Tournament; *April 23*, 7.30 p.m. Steak Night (reserve in advance); *April 30*, High School Dance (closed to public). For info on events, call DSN 368-9822.



Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
March 28	April 8	April 25	May 6	May 23	June 3	June 20	July 1
April 11	April 22	May 9	May 20	June 6	June 17	July 4	July 15

About Us

Meteor-Heraut

The *Meteor-Heraut* is the authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under AR 360-1 for 80th Area Support Group personnel. Editorial content is provided by the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office and the 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 80th Area Support Group. The *Meteor-Heraut* is published twice per month. Circulation is 3,000. Our mailing address is Meteor-Heraut, HQ 80th ASG, Unit 21419, Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09708. Telephone: DSN 361-5419; fax: DSN 361-5106; civilian telephone prefix: 068 27-5419. The country code for Belgium is 32. Email address: meteor@benelux.army.mil

Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
 - We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
 - Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
 - Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the Meteor-Heraut.
- Advertising**
- Messages from readers from profit and non-profit organizations which involve money exchange constitutes advertising.
 - Neither the *Meteor-Heraut* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
 - The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute

endorsement of the products or services offered. Everything advertised must be available for purchase, use or patronage, without discrimination.

- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.

Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

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USO Tour

Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders deploy to SHAPE/Chièvres for performance

By J.D. Hardesty

It may be debatable whether America's Team, the Dallas Cowboys are truly National Football League fan's favorite team, however there was no debate their cheerleaders, America's Sweethearts, were fan favorites for an estimated 400 people who crowded into the Community Activity Center for the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders 56th USO Tour at Chièvres Air Base.

In addition, the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosted a tailgate party for two hours prior to the event. The pre-performance barbecue took on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle rally as a couple of dozen "hogs" were parked as if standing guard for the event.

Laura Beke, a four-year veteran of the squad and elder statesperson for the cheerleaders, told the servicemembers and their families while "Dallas may be America's Team and their cheerleaders America's Sweethearts, it is the American service members that are America's Heroes."

The cheerleaders performed to a mixture of country, rhythm and blues, pop and old fashion rock-n-roll medleys from the past three decades.

As one Soldier commented after the presentation, "I have never been a Dallas Cowboy fan," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Hudson, first sergeant for the 39th Signal Company, "but I am now."



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Fourteen of the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders entertained the SHAPE/Chièvres community March 15 at the Community Activity Center at Chièvres Air Base with songs and dance. An estimated 400 people attended the cheer-

leaders presentation as well as hundreds in Brussels and Schinnen, the Netherlands during the group's photo and autograph sessions. This was the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders' 56th USO tour.



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Sgt. Robert Bunton, supply sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 80th Area Support Group joins Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader Audrea Ulmer on stage during one of the dance routines.

DoDDS Briefs

SHOWCASE 2005

The 9th Annual Showcase, an anthology of original art and literature submitted by DoDDS-Europe students from pre-school through grade 12, is seeking submissions for this year's publication. The final printing is accomplished in November followed by distribution to the schools and communities.

Ramstein to host summer wrestling camp

Ramstein High School hosts the 2005 European wrestling camp June 27 to July 1 for wrestlers in grades nine through 12 during the 2005-2006 school year.

Two-time U.S. Open national freestyle champion Chris Bollin, Junior World Champion TJ Hill, and three-time NCAA Division I All-American, Gary Steffensmeier will instruct the DoDDS-sanctioned event. Each school may initially pre-register four wrestlers; additional applications will be wait listed.

Spring Break

Spring break for most DoDD schools in the SHAPE/Chièvres community is scheduled for Mar. 28-Apr. 8, according to school officials. Other DoDD schools in Europe will break April 11-15. During those dates, DoDDS-E will not sponsor, sanction, or authorize any school trips or vacation excursions for students.

Each year, many tour companies offer trips to a variety of vacation spots. Some of these trips are marketed as senior trips to various locations. DoDDS-E does not offer trips for seniors to vacation spots at any time. For more information, contact Frank O'Gara at DSN: 338-7612/7614.

NATO Support Activity taking AFAP 'As far as possible'

BRUSSELS -- NATO Support Activity, Army Community Service hosted the Annual Brussels Army Family Action Plan Forum, March 8-9.

Brig. Gen. John Adams, the Brussels community coordinator, opened the forum and hailed delegates for their commitment to improving quality of life in the Brussels Tri-Mission Community.

Fourteen adult delegates, representing a cross-section of this unique multi-faceted community, were divided into two different working groups, supported by six staff members and many other behind-the-scenes helping hands, to analyze 21 issues submitted by community members.

The delegates received training before the forum on processes, group dynamics, and issue development, all wanted to go "as far as possible with AFAP!"

Each group prioritized its top three issues and formulated realistic recommendations for them as well also voted for the three most improved services in the Brussels community since AFAP 2004, and the four most valuable services the military provides.

Observers were on site and subject matter

experts available for consultation throughout the conference.

Additionally, a two-session youth forum, coordinated by NSA's Child & Youth Services, was held prior to the AFAP Forum. A panel of five students voiced their specific concerns on improving the quality of life in the Brussels community.

Updates on the top issues will be addressed at town hall meetings throughout the year.

For more information on the AFAP Program in Brussels, contact Isabelle Gillet at DSN 368-9643, 02 717-9643, or email Isabelle.Gillet@benelux.army.mil.

AFAP Results

Three Most Improved Services in the Brussels Community since AFAP 2004

☐ **AAFES Shoppette**, because of its visibly improved services since last year, the variety of products and the customer-friendly attitude of staff; shelves are well-stocked, displaying customers' favorite foods, U.S. brands, movies and books, all reasonably priced for good quality items.

☐ **Special Events** held at the Three-Star

Lounge, because of the various entertainment programs being offered in this facility at different times of the day and night, which provide cohesiveness and a way for community members to meet each other.

☐ **Housing office and the NSA Library**. Housing was selected for its efficiency, perseverance and friendly customer service staff, providing translations, keeping records of "good/bad" landlords, handling all negotiations and legalities, and coordinating with MPs for safety checks. The library because it has improved Internet access for its customers, in providing more movies, and in offering inter-library loans.

Four Most Valuable Military Services

☐ **APO**, because it is a convenient cost-saving link to home (no customs or taxes and no language barrier); speed and efficiency as there are no long lines and no time limits to pick up boxes; they offer family member privileges, and because MPS service is available.

☐ **DECA** (Chièvres Commissary), because it provides name brand U.S. products not found on the economy; customer-friendly labeling and baggers; the variety, quality, cleanliness, customer service, efficiency and flexibility are to be noticed, there is no language problem, and pre-order or special orders are possible.

☐ **Housing office, AAFES Shoppette, BAS, and ACS** all tie in as No. 3. Housing, because they provide people help with immediate need to negotiate their lease contracts; AAFES Shoppette because it provides U.S. products away from home; Brussels American Schools because it is an accredited American school which eliminates the cultural shock but is still culturally diverse, highly utilized, provides quality education also on social issues and a bus service, and is a safe facility for extra-curricular activities; ACS, since it offers free of charge information, the info fair and local brochures, as well as a wide variety of readiness programs, referrals, prevention classes, and family support trainings.



PHOTO: Courtesy NSA Brussels

Delegates to NSA Brussels community Army Family Action Plan conference work through the out-brief phase of lessons learned and prioritizing key issues to work on during the next year. Broad scope issues addressing policy or higher headquarters jurisdiction are forwarded accordingly all the way up to the Department of the Army.